

# CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN MALAYSIAN PSYCHOLOGY

Edited by:

**Zafar Afaq Ansari**

**Noraini M. Noor**

**Amber Haque**





## **CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN MALAYSIAN PSYCHOLOGY**

By Zafar Afaq Ansari, Noraini M. Noor and Amber Haque

Copyright © 2005 by Thomson Learning (a division of Thomson Asia Pte. Ltd.)

For more information, please contact:

Thomson Learning

(a division of Thomson Asia Pte Ltd)

5 Shenton Way

#01-01 UIC Building

Singapore 068808

Or visit our internet website at <http://www.thomsonlearningasia.com>

### **ALL RIGHTS RESERVED**

No part of this work covered by the copyright hereon may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means – graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, taping, Web distribution or information storage and retrieval systems – without the written permission of the publisher.

For permission to use material from this text or product, contact us by

Tel: (65) 6410 1200

Fax: (65) 6410 1208

Email: [tlsg.info@thomson.com](mailto:tlsg.info@thomson.com)

Thomson Learning offices in Asia: Bangkok, Beijing, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Mumbai, Seoul, Singapore, Taipei, Tokyo.

Printed in Malaysia

1 2 3 4 5 06 05 04

When ordering this book, please use **ISBN 981-254-819-X**

# **HISTORY OF PSYCHOLOGY IN MALAYSIA**

**WAN RAFAEI ABDUL RAHMAN**

*We begin by looking at how psychology was used informally in Malaysia. For instance, through observation of behaviour in society in the past, proverbs came into being, depicting the behaviour of the society. A theoretical framework on the relationship between effort and performance can be put together based on those proverbs. Informal psychology is also applied in the treatment of psychological problems by the 'bomohs' (traditional healers) such as the use of the concept 'semangat' in the cure for 'santau'. Islamization has also provided traditional healers with extra conceptual tools. The second part deals with formal psychology. It started with the establishment of psychology departments in the local universities. Among Asian countries, Malaysia was the fifth country to start formal psychology after Bangladesh, India, China and Taiwan. With the increasing number of departments and faculties, the number of courses at undergraduate and post graduate level has increased. Research in general has also increased and with IIUM spearheading research in psychology and Islam, more such research is taking place.*